

CRIME VICTIMS BOARD

MISSION

Since its establishment in 1966, the Crime Victims Board (CVB) has been the lead State agency in assisting persons who have been the victims of crime, particularly crimes of a violent nature.

The Agency's principal mission is to provide financial assistance to victims for losses they suffer as a result of crime. The Board provides grants to local agencies, which assist witnesses and victims, and serves as the State's advocate for crime victims' rights, needs and interests.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Board consists of five members, appointed by the Governor to seven-year terms, who work full-time to administer the Agency and to make final decisions on victim compensation awards. The Governor designates one member of the Board to be the Chair. The Agency has primary offices in Albany and New York City and has a satellite office in Buffalo. Each office processes victim claims and provides grant program aid and advocacy services on a regional basis in support of the Board's mission. Including the five Board members, the agency will have 98 staff in 2009-10.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Executive Budget recommends **\$76.8 million All Funds** (\$38.2 million Other Funds and \$38.6 million Federal Funds) for the Board, which is a net increase of **\$897,000** from the 2008-09 budget. The increase is largely a result of shifting operating expenses from the General Fund to the Criminal Justice Improvement Account, and the inclusion of associated fringe benefit costs that were not previously reflected in CVB's appropriations. The Executive Budget recommends a staffing level of **98 FTEs** which is unchanged from the 2008-09 budget.

Additionally, Article VII legislation is being advanced that improves the manner in which claims are processed by establishing a one-year time limit for individuals to submit claims for reimbursement of medical and counseling expenses and to better align reimbursement with actual costs of conducting a forensic rape examination. The proposal also provides for payment of restitution by credit card.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Crime Victims Board operates with three programs. The Payment to Victims Program compensates individual crime victims for crime-related losses. The Victim and Witness Assistance Program administers grants to local agencies. The Administration Program provides executive direction and administrative support to the agency, as well as advocacy services for crime victims.

Effective 2008, all claims types are now processed on CVB's new automated claims processing system. Claims processing time has been reduced as a result. Legislation enacted this year expanded CVB benefits to include earnings lost by a parent or a guardian as a result of the hospitalization of a child victim under age eighteen for injuries sustained as a direct result of a crime. In addition, CVB's new public website was

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recognized for its user-friendly design by the Center for Digital Government, a national research and advisory institute on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government.

PAYMENTS TO VICTIMS

In 2007-08, CVB issued over 14,500 original decisions. Also, there were over 13,500 positive award decisions. These claims are from persons who may have suffered financial loss as the result of violent crime or, in the case of the elderly and disabled, any crime. Assistance is given for losses when no other source of compensation is available. Categories in which payments are made include medical expenses, lost wages due to work missed because of an injury, stolen or damaged essential personal property and the costs of counseling to relieve the traumatic effects of victimization. Surviving family members of a victim also may be eligible for these services, as well as reimbursement for funeral expenses for a crime victim.

VICTIM AND WITNESS ASSISTANCE

The Crime Victims Board currently administers approximately 200 contracts with other State agencies, local governments, and not-for-profit agencies to provide direct services to crime victims and witnesses. A contract with the New York State Police supports victim advocates who help crime victims contact other law enforcement officials and various assistance programs. Similarly, the Agency cooperates with the Department of Correctional Services to fund advocate positions and an automated victim information and notification system which keeps victims informed about the legal status of the offenders responsible for the crimes committed against them. Services provided by local not-for-profit agencies include crisis intervention, counseling and assistance in filing victim compensation applications.

ADVOCACY

The Agency is responsible by law to “coordinate State programs and activities relating to crime victims” and “to advise and assist the Governor in developing policies designed to recognize the legitimate rights, needs and interests of crime victims.” To that end, the agency provides legal and technical assistance to other State agencies and to local organizations involved with crime victims. In addition, the Crime Victims Board sponsors a bi-annual statewide conference on crime victim issues.

The State’s “Son of Sam Law” prevents convicted persons from profiting from their crimes, including the sale of publishing or film rights to their stories. Any such profits can, by law, be payable to the persons who were victims of the crimes. The Agency is charged with notifying victims of a convicted person that a “Son of Sam” situation exists, and may also act on the victims’ behalf to prevent the profits from being spent or otherwise put beyond the reach of the victims while a recovery suit is pending.

**ALL FUNDS
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Category	Available 2008-09	Appropriations Recommended 2009-10	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2009-10
State Operations	9,778,000	10,675,000	897,000	0
Aid To Localities	66,120,000	66,120,000	0	44,052,000
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	75,898,000	76,795,000	897,000	44,052,000

**ALL FUND TYPES
PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM
FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS**

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2008-09 Estimated FTEs 03/31/09	2009-10 Estimated FTEs 03/31/10	FTE Change
Administration			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	28	28	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	70	70	0
Total	98	98	0

**STATE OPERATIONS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Fund Type	Available 2008-09	Recommended 2009-10	Change
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	3,113,000	3,061,000	(52,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	6,665,000	7,614,000	949,000
Total	9,778,000	10,675,000	897,000

Adjustments:

Transfer(s) From	
Crime Victims Board	
General Fund	(4,979,000)
Special Pay Bill	
General Fund	(97,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	(158,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	(499,000)
Transfer(s) To	
Crime Victims Board	
Special Revenue Funds - Other	4,979,000
Appropriated 2008-09	<u>9,024,000</u>

**STATE OPERATIONS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Program	Available 2008-09	Recommended 2009-10	Change
Administration			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	2,083,000	2,031,000	(52,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	6,405,000	7,354,000	949,000
Victim and Witness Assistance			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,030,000	1,030,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	260,000	260,000	0
Total	9,778,000	10,675,000	897,000

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**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2009-10 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	9,385,000	897,000	5,615,000	(604,000)
Victim and Witness Assistance	1,290,000	0	783,000	0
Total	10,675,000	897,000	6,398,000	(604,000)

Program	Nonpersonal Service	
	Amount	Change
Administration	3,770,000	1,501,000
Victim and Witness Assistance	507,000	0
Total	4,277,000	1,501,000

**AID TO LOCALITIES
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Fund Type	Available 2008-09	Recommended 2009-10	Change
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	35,493,000	35,493,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	30,627,000	30,627,000	0
Total	66,120,000	66,120,000	0

**AID TO LOCALITIES
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Program	Available 2008-09	Recommended 2009-10	Change
Payment to Victims			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	11,523,000	11,523,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	23,520,000	23,520,000	0
Victim and Witness Assistance			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	23,970,000	23,970,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	7,107,000	7,107,000	0
Total	66,120,000	66,120,000	0